



IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Boyd K. Rutherford

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Governor

Lt. Governor

Superintendent

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Sworn and civilian members of the Maryland State Police who serve in the military were honored Nov. 10 during the annual Freedom Awards ceremony in Sykesville.

Freedom Award Ceremony Honors Troopers Serving In The Military

(SYKESVILLE, MD) — The Maryland Department of State Police on Nov. 10 honored sworn and civilian employees who have served or are currently serving in the US military during the Maryland State Police Freedom Award Ceremony.

The Maryland State Police established the Freedom Award to acknowledge each member of the Maryland State Police who served in the military or is currently serving as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.

“There are 429 current employees in the Department who are veterans and many more among our retirees,” said Colonel Woodrow “Jerry” Jones III, Superintendent of

the Maryland State Police.

“From the early stages of the Maryland State Police, we’ve had a proud connection to our military,” Col. Jones said. “We’re proud to support the men and women who have served or continue to serve our nation as members of the United States Armed Forces.”

During the ceremony, a red, white and blue ribbon is awarded to those who served in any military branch. For those who served in a designated combat zone, a gold star is added to the ribbon.



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PHOTOS: Freedom Award Ceremony 2020





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(L to R) Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. Woodrow Jones III joined MDOT MVA Administrator Christine Nizer, Gov. Larry Hogan and MDOT Secretary Gregory Slater to unveil a memorial stone in honor of victims of fatal impaired driving crashes in the state.

Maryland Remembers Victims Of Impaired Driving With Ceremony And Memorial Stone

(ANNAPOLIS, MD) — The Maryland State Police joined Gov. Larry Hogan, transportation leaders, safety advocates and families to remember those who lost their lives to impaired driving.

Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. Woodrow Jones III was among those who on Nov. 23rd participated in the 17th annual Maryland Remembers ceremony. For the first time in 17 years, the ceremony was held as a hybrid virtual event, with family members and law enforcement members joining via livestream from the Annapolis Visitor Center.

“Together, we will never stop fighting to prevent more needless



deaths from impaired driving,” Gov. Hogan said. “We truly are making progress, but even one death is too many. Our administration is fully committed to doing everything in our power to save lives and to prevent future tragedies.”

Maryland Remembers is held annually at the beginning of the holi-

day season, when impaired driving crashes tend to increase. In 2019, 151 people died and more than 3,200 were injured on Maryland roadways due to impaired driving. More than 18,500 people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs last year, with 1,847 of those arrests occurring from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day.

Earlier this month, a Maryland Remembers memorial stone was formally unveiled on the grounds of the Maryland State Police Annapolis Barrack for family, friends and community members to visit.



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MSP Expanding Efforts To Assist With COVID-19 Compliance Statewide

In addition to the traditional Maryland State Police efforts ramping up drunk driving patrols and enforcement over the Thanksgiving holiday, Gov. Larry Hogan on Nov. 23 announced the launch of an all-hands-on-deck compliance, education, and enforcement operation.

The Maryland State Police (MSP) expanded its COVID-19 Compliance and Coordination Center and deployed “High Visibility Compliance Units” across the state. Additional state troopers were assigned in every county to work in partnership with local leaders, law enforcement and other county officials with a focus on educating the public about existing orders and protocols, preventing super-spreading events and taking enforcement actions when necessary.



Gov. Larry Hogan announces expanded efforts to ensure COVID-19 compliance executive orders are enforced.

These “High Visibility Compliance Units” were detailed to several downtown areas including Bel Air, Bethesda, Fells Point in Baltimore City, Salisbury, Silver Spring, Towson and to Allegany County. In addition to bars and restaurants, the operation focused on venues that host gatherings, including nightclubs and banquet halls.

This statewide operation kicked off Nov. 25 ahead of the Thanks-

giving holiday and continued throughout the holiday season. MSP also operated a 24/7 phone line and email address specifically to support local compliance teams in the field with any questions regarding existing orders and enforcement.

Members of the public can report unsafe facilities and activities or public health order violations. Marylanders who see unlawful behavior are encouraged to report it by email-
ing Prevent.Covid@maryland.gov or by calling (833) 979-2266.

**Help protect your community from COVID-19:
report unsafe facilities and activities.**



833-979-2266



prevent.covid@maryland.gov

24/7 phone line and email address are operated by the Maryland State Police.

Questions or comments? Email us at msh.media@maryland.gov or call 410-653-4236



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MSP, Allied Agencies Continue To Combat Street Racing , Excessive Exhaust Noise In Montgomery County

(ROCKVILLE, MD) – As part of their ongoing efforts to address street racing and excessive exhaust noise in Montgomery County, police are continuing to conduct saturation patrols in concentrated areas known for the noise and illegal activity.

The joint effort by the Maryland State Police Rockville Barrack and allied law enforcement agencies in Montgomery County has included five initiatives since Labor Day weekend. The coordinated efforts in the county are a response to citizen complaints in the region.

To date, the overall combined efforts of all five initiatives conducted by law enforcement agencies working in Montgomery County to address aggressive driving, street racing and the excessive noise caused by modified exhaust systems has yielded the following results:

- 309 traffic stops



- 217 citations
- 173 warnings
- 55 safety equipment repair orders
- 15 arrests

Among the most recent of these initiatives was “Operation Gas Can,” which occurred on Oct. 30. It yielded 51 traffic stops, 40 citations, 30 warnings, eight equipment repair orders, and three arrests during the one-day initiative

Throughout these operations, troopers from the Rockville Barrack have been assisted by state

troopers from the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, officers from the Gaithersburg City Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department and Maryland Transportation Authority Police.

Personnel from the Maryland Department of Transportation have also assisted with the combined efforts.

Maryland State Police highway safety initiatives in this region and throughout the state will continue, in cooperation with local law enforcement partners.

Please obey the speed limit, do not drive aggressively or impaired and always buckle up.



IMPACT UPDATE

Troopers Join Allied Agencies In 'Click It or Ticket' Seatbelt Enforcement Campaign

Troopers across the state joined other allied law enforcement agencies and the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration to remind motorists of the importance of wearing their seat belt.

The 2020 "Click It or Ticket" campaign kicked off on Nov. 16. Nearly 40 law enforcement agencies across the state enforced "Click It or Ticket" with a multi-state Border-to-Border (B2B) effort – a national one-day effort that included an enforcement period to address seat belt use. Local and national ads aired on billboards, television, radio and online through early November to generate awareness.

The initiatives that involved Maryland State Police included one on Belair Road at the Baltimore County line, where troopers from the Bel Air Barrack and deputies from the Harford County Sheriff's Office issued 28 seat belt cita-



Troopers from the Bel Air Barrack joined the Harford County Sheriff's Office as part of the state's "Click It or Ticket" campaign to promote seatbelt safety. (Photos courtesy of MHSO)

tions, nine cellphone citations and 10 warnings. In addition, troopers in the Washington Metro Troop issued 74 citations and 19 warnings in Prince George's County.

Overall, troopers conducted 566 traffic stops, issued 365 citations (including 81 for cellphone violations and 79 for seat belt violations) and 317 warnings (including 78 for cellphone viola-

tions and 47 for seatbelt violations) statewide as part of the initiative.

In 2019, 534 lives were lost on Maryland highways in vehicle crashes. Statistics show that every year, one in three vehicle occupants who died in crashes was not wearing a seat belt.

In Maryland, every driver and passenger must wear a seat belt. Children under the age of 8 must be in an appropriate booster or child safety seat unless they are 4 feet 9 inches or taller. If any passengers older than 16 years old are not wearing a seat belt, the driver can receive an \$83 ticket for each offense.





IMPACT UPDATE

Berlin Barrack, Others Partners To Promote 'No-Scam November'

(BERLIN, MD) — The Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack, along with allied agencies and the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office, partnered to raise awareness about common frauds, scams and schemes often perpetrated against some of the most vulnerable populations in our community.

The focus of "No-Scam November," organized by the Worcester County Vulnerable Adult Task Force, was prevention of scams before they cause financial damage to the victim, as inherent difficulties exist in the investigation and identification of high-tech scammers and in the attempts to recover the victim's money.

In 2020, law enforcement has seen a dramatic increase in the number of reported fraud cases, and senior citizens are the most frequent target.

In Worcester County, the most common types of fraud currently experienced are gift card scams. Scammers have been targeting victims either by phone or by email, often claiming that there is an emergency situation the victim must buy gift cards to resolve. The scammer typically then requests the code on the back of the gift card so they can use it online.

Detective Sgt. Mike Mann, assistant barrack commander of the



Berlin Barrack, has seen cases where the scammer claims to be a computer company demanding thousands in gift cards to remove a virus from the victim's computer.

"A legitimate computer or software company is never going to demand payment in gift cards," Det. Sgt. Mann said. "Scammers instead actually send a message to your computer making you think it has a virus and that the only solution is to pay them in gift cards. Don't fall for it."

Other common schemes include the scammer claiming to be the IRS, or claiming a family member of the victim has been arrested or needs bail money. In another frequent scam, the victim is told that they have won a contest or prize money, but in order to collect their winnings, they must buy gift cards totaling a small portion of the total prize they will eventually be sent by the scammer.

In yet another example, a scammer spoofed the victim's boss's email address and sent the victim an email (which the victim believed was from his boss) instructing the victim to go and buy gift cards and then text the codes on the back of the card to a different phone number because the boss lost his phone.

To combat these gift card scams, beginning last month, local law enforcement, including Maryland State Police, Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Ocean Pines Police Department, will be conducting community outreach efforts and providing local businesses with free signage, provided by the Office of the State's Attorney, that can be attached to any gift card display case.

These signs, along with outreach by prosecutors and police will also help local businesses and shop owners to educate their staff to know the signs of a gift card scam before ringing up the victim's purchase, and to contact police whenever they suspect a scam.



IMPACT UPDATE

PHOTOS: MSP Cumberland Explorers 'Not So Scary Halloween' 2020



Once again, the MSP Cumberland Explorers had such a great time at its annual "Not So Scary Halloween" event on Oct. 29. Things looked a little different this year due to COVID-19, but they had a lot of fun with their social distance Halloween drive thru.

